the season 2001-2002, the sugar mills of Karnataka have been granted advance free sale quota to the tune of 31500 MTs.

(iii) The levy obligation of domestic sugar factories was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000 and, subsequently, to 15% with effect from 01.02.2001; this was further reduced to 10% with effect from 01.03.2002 and has enabled the sugar factories to sell more sugar under free sale quota in the open market to obtain better realization.

(iv) The quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed. During the sugar season 2001-2002, the sugar factories of Karnataka exported a quantity of 2.33 lakh tonnes as against 1.28 lakh tonnes during the sugar season 2000-2001.

BPL families

*335. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Supreme Court's direction, Andhra Pradesh and other States have indentified BPL families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government do not recognise the number of BPL families identified by Andhra Pradesh and are releasing foodgrains for the BPL families as estimated by the Planning Commission only;

(d) whether this is not violative of Supreme Court's directive; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Supreme Court in Order in Writ Petition No. 196/2001 dated 28.11.2002 had, *inter alia*, directed all States to complete the identification of BPL families by

January, 2002. The State Governments/UTs, including the Government of Andhra Pradesh, have reported that identification of BPL families has been completed.

Under the TPDS, the allocation of foodgrains to the BPL families is being made as per the Poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission, based on Expert Group's methodology, updated on the population base of the Registrar General, as on 1-3-2000. On this basis, the estimated number of BPL families in Andhra Pradesh is 40.63 lakhs against which the State Government have identified 113.60 lakh BPL families. The basis of allocation of foodgrains is being uniformly applied to all the States/UTs without exception.

Relaxation in existing labour laws

*338. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to boost the export, the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries has requested Government to relax the existing labour laws for particular economic zones and include labour as a Union subject;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the labour interests likely to be affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No Sir. Ministry of Labour have not received any such request from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

Revision of E.P.F. pension scheme

*339. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to revise the E.P.F. Pension Scheme extending the benefit to all the employees who are member of E.P.F;